

In the claims

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message after receipt by the recipient, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

coding the body of the electronic message in response to a user request while the electronic message is being composed in a messaging application, before the user clicks the send command and before being sent from the messaging application to indicate a request to prevent forwarding;

scanning the electronic message by a gateway for ~~[[a]]~~ the request to prevent forwarding;

storing the message identifier in a blacklist database by the gateway whenever the request is found; ~~and~~

~~blocking, by the gateway, the forwarding by the recipient of the electronic message that after the electronic message has been received by the recipient when the message identifier of the electronic message being forwarded matches an entry in the blacklist database; and~~

notifying the user, by the gateway, of an attempt to forward.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message received by a recipient, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the ~~method system~~ comprising:

means for coding the body of the electronic message in response to a user request while the electronic message is being composed in a messaging application, before the user clicks the send command and before being sent from the messaging application to indicate a request to prevent forwarding;

means for scanning the electronic message by a gateway for [[a]] the request to prevent forwarding;

means for storing the message identifier in a blacklist database by the gateway whenever the request is found; and

means for blocking, by the gateway, the forwarding by the recipient of the electronic message that has been received by the recipient whenever the message identifier of the electronic message being forwarded matches an entry in the blacklist database; and

means for notifying the user, by the gateway, of an attempt to forward.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

means for selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

coding the body of an electronic message in response to a user request while the electronic message is being composed in a messaging application, before the user clicks the send command and before being sent from the messaging application to indicate a request to prevent forwarding;

scanning an electronic message by a gateway for ~~[[a]]~~ the request to prevent forwarding;

storing ~~the a~~ message identifier in a blacklist database by the gateway whenever the request is found; and

blocking, by the gateway, forwarding by a recipient of the electronic message once the electronic message has been received by a recipient whenever the message identifier of the electronic message being forwarded matches an entry in the blacklist database; and

notifying the user, by the gateway, of an attempt to forward.

15. (Original) The medium of claim 14, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

16. (Original) The medium of claim 15, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

17. (Original) The medium of claim 16, further comprising:
selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions that when executed by a computer perform the acts of:

receiving user input for preventing forwarding of one or more electronic mail messages being sent to a recipient, wherein the user input is a dot command;

storing ~~matching the user~~ input in a blacklist database; and

upon a subsequent attempt to forward one of the one or more received electronic mail messages by the recipient who has received the one or more electronic mail messages, referencing the user input ~~relative to the matching input~~ in the blacklist database and preventing forwarding by the recipient, wherein receiving user input comprises receiving user input included in the ~~header~~ body of an electronic mail message while the electronic mail message was being created in a messaging application, before the user clicks the send command and prior to being sent from the messaging application at a client computer where the user input ~~from the header~~ is referenced upon an attempt to forward the electronic mail message such that when the ~~header of the electronic mail message being forwarded~~ user input matches the input in the blacklist database, forwarding of the electronic mail message ~~being forwarded~~ is blocked; and
notifying the user of an attempt to forward.

20-21. (Cancelled)